

Amendments to the Claims:

Pursuant to revised 37 CFR 1.121, a complete listing of all claims in the application follows along with a parenthetical expression of the status of each claim. No new matter has been added.

1. (Original) A clamp applicator comprising:
 - a housing having a motor with an ON/OFF and a FORWARD/REVERSE switch;
 - a stationary first gripper located near a band entry port in the housing;
 - a second gripper having a linkage to the motor to move forward by means of a mobile gripper housing toward the entry port and backward;
 - a cutter in the housing for cutting a tightened clamp;
 - wherein a clamp tightening mode of operation powers the second gripper backward while gripping a segment of a clamp, thereby tightening the clamp;
 - wherein a clamp cutting mode of operation powers the second gripper forward, thereby releasing its grip on the clamp segment and activating the cutter to cut the clamp segment;
 - wherein the cutter further comprises a pivot mount in the housing, and the second gripper has a mechanical interface with one end of the cutter to pivot a cutting end of the cutter into contact with the segment of the clamp during the cutting mode of operation; and
 - wherein the mobile gripper housing further comprises a release lever actuator which in the clamp cutting mode contacts a pivotable stationary gripper release lever, thereby releasing the stationary first gripper from the segment of the clamp after the cutting mode operation.
2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first gripper has a jaw that prevents the clamp segment from moving forward during the cutting mode of operation.

3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the first gripper jaw travels in an angled slot so as to allow a proper slack in the clamp segment during the cutting mode of operation.

4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the linkage further comprises a gear assembly and a torque adjustment assembly for the second gripper, thereby providing a variable tensioning capability to the clamp applicator for accommodating a plurality of clamp widths.

5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the housing further comprises a screw drive for the second gripper.

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the motor is a DC type, the housing has a battery pack, and the housing has a DC input receptacle.

7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 6, further comprising a detachable bench mounting base for the housing.

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7 further comprising an AC/DC converter and a foot pedal controller for the motor, wherein both speed and direction are controlled by the foot.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a free end clamp adapter having a free end port on the housing and located forward of the entry port.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a manual release lever for each of the first and second gripper.

Claims 11-31 (Canceled).